

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the above-captioned patent application after this amendment. Claims 1-19 have been rejected.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claims 1-19. However, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 9, 16 and 17 with this amendment for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the goals of the Patent Office (65 Fed. Reg. 54603), and/or to clarify what the Applicants regard as the present invention. Claim 9 has been amended to clarify what the Applicants regard as the present invention, and not to overcome the stated rejection. Further, claims 4 and 12 have been amended to correct certain typographical errors, and not to overcome any stated rejection. Additionally, the Applicants have made certain amendments to the specification to correct certain typographical errors.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 9, 16 and 17 can be found throughout the originally filed specification. In particular, support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 9, 16 and 17 can be found in the specification at page 9, line 27 through page 10, line 33, in Figures 3A and 3B, and in the originally filed claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-19

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,410,206 issued to Luecke et al. ("Luecke et al."). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-19 are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Further, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form.

More particularly, the Examiner contends that Luecke et al. discloses in Figures 1-18: a motor (34) including a motor output (34a, 36a, 38a) that is moved along the first axis and about the first axis; a coupling assembly including a stage (21) that couples the motor output to an object (42) and a stage guide (7a, 7b, 7c) that guides the motion of the stage along the first axis; and a measurement system (110, 120, 130) that provides information

regarding the movement of the stage, having features of the present invention. The Examiner further contends that Luecke et al. discloses the stage guide as a linear bearing that allows for the motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibits motion of the stage about the second and third axes (represented by the movement of the actuators 34a, 36a, 38a).

The Applicants provide that Luecke et al. is directed to a piezoelectric actuator for rotating a shaft associated with an optical mount positioning system, with a stated object of providing "a piezoelectric actuator for the adjustment screws of an optical mount to tilt the mount in any direction and to translate the mount longitudinally along the optical axis of the system incorporating the mount." The positioning system comprises: adjustment screws 34, 36, 38 that pass through a base plate 22, with the tips of adjustment screws 34, 36, 38 resting in shallow receptacles in a stage plate 21, wherein the stage plate 21 includes a mounting region 16 to accommodate an optical element; spring means to hold the stage plate 21 against the tips of the adjustment screws 34, 36, 38; and piezoelectric actuators 34a, 36a, 38a mounted on adjustment screws 34, 36, 38, respectively, to drive the adjustment screws 34, 36, 38 in response to signals developed with a joystick 8, wherein the angle of the stage plate 21 can be adjusted without human or manual contact. Further, as shown in Figure 8, piezoelectric actuator 50 has jaw elements 60, 61 positioned about a cylindrical shaft 80, which includes a threaded portion 80a passing through a threaded hole in base plate 85. Cyclical signals may be provided to the piezoelectric actuator 50 to cause rotation of the shaft 80 in either direction. Additionally, Figure 10 illustrates how the joystick controls the movement of the piezoelectric actuators, with state block 130 monitoring which piezoelectric actuator is being driven. (Luecke et al. Abstract, column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 2, column 5, line 16 through column 6, line 14, column 7, line 64 through column 8, line 47, column 10, line 34 through column 11, line 2, and in Figures 1-3, 8 and 10).

However, Luecke et al. does not disclose a stage guide that guides movement of the stage plate 21 along a first axis and inhibits movement of the stage plate 21 about a second axis that is orthogonal to the first axis. Luecke et al., in contrast, teaches the adjustment or tilting of the stage plate 21 (or optical mount) in any direction. Further, Luecke et al. does not disclose a measurement system that provides information regarding

the movement of the stage plate 21. Luecke et al., in contrast, teaches a control system that measures and monitors the movement of the piezoelectric actuators.

In distinction to Luecke et al., amended claim 1 recites “(a) mover assembly ... comprising: a motor including a motor output that moves; and a coupling assembly including a stage that couples the motor output to the object and a stage guide that guides the motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibits motion of the stage about a second axis that is orthogonal to the first axis.”

Because Luecke et al. does not disclose all of the elements of amended claim 1, the § 102(b) rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Further, because claims 3-8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, the rejection of claims 3-8 is also unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, in distinction to Luecke et al., amended claim 2 recites “(a) mover assembly ... comprising: a motor including a motor output that moves; and a coupling assembly including a stage that couples the motor output to the object and a stage guide that guides the motion of the stage along the first axis, wherein the motor output is moved along the first axis and about the first axis and wherein the stage guide is a linear bearing that allows for motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibits motion of the stage about the first, about a second and third axes, along the second axis and along the third axis.”

Because Luecke et al. does not disclose all of the elements of amended claim 2, the § 102(b) rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Further, in distinction to Luecke et al., amended claim 9 recites “(a) mover assembly ... comprising: a motor including a motor output that moves; and a coupling assembly including a stage that moves with the motor output, a stage guide that guides the motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibits motion of the stage about the first axis, and a measurement system that provides information regarding the movement of the stage.”

Because Luecke et al. does not disclose all of the elements of amended claim 9, the § 102(b) rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Further, because claims 10-15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 9, the rejection of claims 10-15 is also unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Still further, in distinction to Luecke et al., amended claim 16 recites "(a) method ... comprising the steps of: providing a motor including a motor output that is moved along a first axis; coupling the motor output to the object with a stage; and guiding the motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibiting motion of the stage about a second axis that is orthogonal to the first axis with a stage guide."

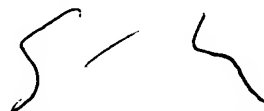
Because Luecke et al. does not disclose all of the elements of amended claim 16, the § 102(b) rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Further, because claims 17-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16, the rejection of claims 17-19 is also unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-19 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-456-1951 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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